

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



**Headquarters**

Washington, DC 20546-0001

April 4, 2019

Office of Communications

Emma Best  
MuckRock News  
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REF: 19-HQ-F-00118

Dear Ms. Best:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated and received November 21, 2018, at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Headquarters FOIA Office. Your request was assigned FOIA Case Number 19-HQ-F-00118 and was for:

Files mentioning TeaMp0isoN, computer security research group consisting of 3-5 core members. The group gained notoriety in 2011/2012 for their blackhat hacking activities, which included attacks on the United Nations, NASA, NATO, Facebook and several other large corporations and government entities.

In response to your request, a search of NASA's Office of Chief Information Officer was conducted using the description you provided above. We have located Six (6) documents consisting of 68 pages responsive to your request.

We have reviewed these responsive records under the FOIA to determine whether they may be accessed under the FOIA's provisions. Based on that review, this office is providing these records in part, with portions of the documents being withheld pursuant to FOIA exemptions 5 U.S.C. § 552 , (b)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and (b)(7)(E).

FOIA Exemption 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(2), “. . . protects from mandatory disclosure documents related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency. NASA is invoking Exemption 2 to protect NASA IP addresses.

FOIA Exemption 5 U.S.C. §552 (b)(6) allows withholding of “personnel and medical files and *similar files* the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” NASA is invoking Exemption (b)(6) to protect the identities of lower level NASA employees, third parties, phone numbers, or other identifying information that could reasonably identify these individuals.

Exemption 7(C) protects from public disclosure “records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes...[if disclosure] could reasonably be expected to cause an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(C). In conjunction with FOIA Exemption 6, NASA is invoking Exemption 7(C) to protect the identities of lower level NASA employees, investigative agents, and or third parties mentioned or referenced during the conduct of the investigation, and any information that could reasonably be expected to identify such individuals.

FOIA Exemption 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(7)(E), “. . . information compiled for law enforcement purposes. To the extent that production of such information would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigation or prosecution, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecution if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law.” NASA is invoking exemption (b)(7)(E) because certain information in these record disclose methods that NASA uses to assess the disposition of potential cybersecurity threats. Sharing this information broadly will allow hackers or other malignant actors to shape their attacks to avoid detection.

You have the right under 14 CFR §1206.700 to appeal this initial determination within 90 days from the date of this letter. Your appeal must be in writing and should be addressed to:

Administrator  
NASA Headquarters  
Executive Secretariat  
MS 9R17  
Washington, DC 20546  
ATTN: FOIA Appeals

The appeal should be marked “Appeal under the Freedom of Information Act” both on the envelope and the face of the letter. A copy of your initial request must be enclosed along with a copy of the adverse determination and any other correspondence with the FOIA office. In order to expedite the appellate process and ensure full consideration of your appeal, your appeal should contain a brief statement of the reasons you believe this initial decision to be in error.

Prior to filing an appeal, you may contact NASA’s Chief FOIA Public Liaison, Stephanie K. Fox, via telephone at 202-358-1553 or via e-mail at [Stephanie.K.Fox@NASA.gov](mailto:Stephanie.K.Fox@NASA.gov) to obtain further assistance or seek dispute resolution services for any aspect of your request. You may also send correspondence to Ms. Gramian at the following address:

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)  
Freedom of Information Act Unit  
NASA Headquarters  
Attn: Stephanie K. Fox  
Chief FOIA Public Liaison  
300 E Street, S.W., 5P32  
Washington D.C. 20546  
(Fax) 202- 358-4332

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA dispute resolution services it offers. The contact information for OGIS is:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS  
College Park, Maryland 20740-6001  
Email: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
[Telephone: \(202\) 741-5770](tel:(202)741-5770)  
[Toll free: 1-877-684-6448](tel:1-877-684-6448)  
[Fax: \(202\) 741-5769](tel:(202)741-5769)

**Important:** Please note that contacting any agency official including the undersigned or NASA's Principal FOIA Officer and/or OGIS referenced above is not an alternative to filing an administrative appeal and does not stop the 90 day appeal clock.

In accordance with § 1206.804 (c), after consultation with the NASA Headquarters General Counsel Office, I am the official responsible for the denial of your request.

Fees for processing this request are less than \$50.00 and are not being charged in accordance with 14 CFR §1206.503(c). I am the official responsible for this partial denial. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at [hq-foia@nasa.gov](mailto:hq-foia@nasa.gov) or (202) 358-2462.

Sincerely,



Josephine Sibley  
Headquarters  
FOIA Public Liaison Officer